

THE CHRISTIAN HERALD.

VOL. III.] *Saturday, August 16, 1817.* [No. 21.

We have recently received from England the June Magazines, which give an account of the late Anniversary Meetings of the several great Institutions, held in London in the month of May. These publications only make mention in very brief and general terms of the intelligence communicated, and in some instances present abstracts of the speeches delivered on the occasion. Enough however is detailed to afford a cheering view of the benevolent and extensive enterprises still pursuing in that country for advancing the cause of religion and humanity. To give summaries only of all the interesting matter furnished in relation to the several Societies, would far exceed the limits of the present Number. We shall, in the course of this publication, present our readers with copious extracts from those Magazines, together with such other important details as may occasionally come to hand. We now begin with

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, May 7, was held the thirteenth Anniversary of this Institution, at Freemasons' Hall, London: at which their pious and noble patron, Lord Teignmouth, presided, who was supported by the Bishops of Salisbury, Norwich, Gloucester, and Cloyne, the Earl of Elgin, Lord Gambier, and several respectable Members of the British Parliament.

The Report briefly mentioned the flourishing state of the Society, and its rapid extension through the world. The spirit of peace had poured on the world a rich abundance of moral and intellectual blessings. Christian knowledge is now confined to no country: the African and the Asiatic—the Hottentot and the Hindoo, are enabled to trace the mind of God in the pages of Scripture, and rejoice in there contemplating a sublimer revelation than in sun, moon, and stars. The crescent of Mahomet sinks before the rising beams of Christianity; a Mahometan aged 40 had learned to read, purposely that he might read the Scriptures. The first Bible sold in Africa was to a Hottentot. An African said of the Scriptures, "These are the weapons that will conquer Africa—they have conquered me." The Report stated the formation of various Bible Societies at home and abroad, particularly in Russia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, &c. and even among the Catholics, thousands of whom now read the Bible: also in the East and West Indies, America, and Africa, where a Hottentot of 50 years of age learned to read that he might read the Bible. The Report concluded with giving thanks to God for a disposition to encourage the

distribution of the Scriptures, and imploring the Divine blessing on its exertions.

The Report, together with the whole proceedings of this meeting, were replete with the most lively interest, and equally encouraging with those of any former Anniversary; but as we expect to be enabled to furnish our readers with a detailed account in our next Number, we shall for the present confine ourselves to a few of the most prominent facts stated in the Report.

The object of the Society is increasingly felt and promoted in every quarter of the globe, and new fields are continually opening for the dispensation of its bounty, by encouraging the establishment of Societies for perpetuating the distribution of the Holy Scriptures, by granting to them pecuniary aid at their establishment, and in the progress of printing large editions of the Holy Scriptures.—Among the Roman Catholics upon the continent large impressions of the New Testament have been circulated at the charge of the Society, as well as to Protestants situated in Catholic countries, which have been attended with the most beneficial results.

The Auxiliary Societies in the United Kingdom, although much increased in number, continue their operations with vigour; and, notwithstanding the past year has been one of peculiar distress, they have contributed to the Parent Institution no less than 52,027*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*;* and as their local wants become supplied with the Holy Scriptures, they progressively allot a considerable portion of those contributions to the general purposes of the Parent Institution, without requiring any return in Bibles and Testaments, thereby enabling them to promote more extensively the printing and circulation of the Holy Scriptures in countries destitute of the Word of Life.—The sum of 21,954*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* has been received during the past year for Bibles and Testaments.—The total *net* receipts was 84,040*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*† and the net expenditure 89,230*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*‡

The total number of Bibles issued during the year, ending the 31st March last, was 92,239, and of Testaments 100,782; making the whole number issued by the Society exceed A MILLION AND THREE QUARTERS of copies of the Holy Scriptures.

The resolutions were moved and seconded respectively, by W. Wilberforce, Esq. M. P., and the Bishop of Salisbury—by the Bishop of Gloucester, and Sir Thomas Ackland, Bart. M. P.—by W. T. Money, Esq. M. P., and the Rev. George Clayton—by the Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart., and John Wayland, jun. Esq.—by the Rev. Dr. Mason, of New-York, and the Rev. Richard Watson—by the Rev. Dr. Thorpe, of Dublin, and Major-General Colin Macaulay—by the Bishop of Norwich, and the Rev. Edward Burn, of Birmingham—by the Bishop of Cloyne, and the Rev. John Patterson, from St. Petersburg—by the Rev. Professor Paxton, and by the Right Honourable Lord Gambier.

* Upwards of two hundred and thirty-one thousand dollars.

† Upwards of three hundred and seventy-four thousand dollars.

‡ Almost four hundred thousand dollars.

After the Report was read, apologies for unavoidable absence were received from the Bishop of Durham, Lord Exmouth, and Mr. Vansittart.

W. Wilberforce, Esq. M. P. congratulated the Society on the favourable Report just read, and on the animating intelligence it contained. "My Lord, (said Mr. W.) you have even awakened Siberia itself to life and action." Mr. W. moved the acceptance and printing of the Report.

The Right Rev. Bishop of SALISBURY seconded this motion.

Thanks to the President were moved by the Right Rev. the Bishop of GLOUCESTER, who, after stating the feelings with which the Report should impress us, such as gratitude, patience, perseverance, &c. suggested the important inquiry, Whether we ourselves have been making a diligent and profitable use of that treasure so long committed to us, in the daily devout perusal of it, and prayer over it. "I trust (said his lordship) I shall be excused touching upon this point, because it arises from an ardent desire to promote this good cause, and an endeavour in my humble way to make it all pure within as well as all glorious without."

Sir T. ACKLAND, Bart. M. P. "In approaching your lordship, I approach the centre of the greatest circle this world ever saw—it reaches not only to the ends of the earth, but of the heavens." Sir Thomas added, that England had the distinguished honour of accomplishing two great works, the abolition of the slave trade, and the establishment of the Bible Society.

PRESIDENT. If I were to name a day in my life attended with a peculiar blessing, I would name the day on which I became a member of this Society. He added, that if his abilities were equal to his love to the Society, he should be more deserving of their thanks.

W. MONEY, Esq. M. P. in moving to the Right Hon. and Rev. Vice-Presidents, adverted to the horrid blasphemy of "a living god" in India. I heard (said Mr. M.) of a being impiously styled "the living god," and I found him an ignorant boy of about 14 or 15 years of age, sitting in a temple surrounded by his worshippers. His story was this: about 160 or 170 years ago, a Buddha of consequence was told in a vision that there should be seven incarnations of a god in his family. The seven incarnations expired, and the priests added a supernumerary one, and when the people heard of it they only considered it as displaying the extraordinary power of their god. Mr. M. mentioned also the conversion of a Buddha priest in Ceylon, who had become a Christian minister.

Rev. G. CLAYTON observed, that the spirit of this Society, though dragged into controversy, had exhibited the meekness and gentleness of Christ. "Some subordinate officers (like myself) may have been chafed and fretted; but when we come to our Secretary and say, '*My father, shall we smite them? shall we smite them?*' He has answered, '*Thou shalt not smite them: wouldst thou smite those whom we have taken captive with our sword and with our bow? Set bread and water before them that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.*' (See 2 Kings vi. 20, 21.) This

324 13th Anniversary of the Br. and For. Bible Society.

Society also reminded him of the blessing of Jacob, "Joseph is a fruitful bough, whose branches run over the wall." On one side the wall I see mitred greatness, on the other humble dissent; but the branches meet over the wall, and there is no sectarian flavour in the wine—it is the wine of the kingdom, and rejoices the heart both of God and man.

SIR GEO. GRAY moved thanks to the Royal Dukes who patronized the Society—York, Kent, Sussex, Gloucester, and Cumberland.

J. WAYLAND, jun. Esq. in seconding these thanks, remarked the good effects of the Bible in promoting habits of industry as well as morals and religion among the poor.

Rev. Dr. MASON, of New-York, Secretary to the American National Bible Society, observed: There was a general sentiment that all light must beam from east to west; but the Sun of Righteousness was subject to no such law. On this occasion he has been pleased to arise in the western isle of Britain, and from thence to beam his light upon the dark shores of India, with a glory never to be extinguished. "It is in vain to talk of opposition now, my Lord (said Dr. M.) when the Bible Society forms the moral machinery of the world. All the ~~great~~ and formidable columns which have been arranged under its banners have but one word of command from on high, and that word is—*onward*!" He moved the thanks to the Committee, which was seconded by

Rev. R. WATSON, (Secretary to the Methodist Mission,) also thanked the Society for communicating so fully their operations and success, which was enough almost to make us forget the miseries of the world, in the expectation of its future glory. The young man may now well rejoice in his youth, because he may live to see the glorious results. "We see before us (said he) the scene of a soft and beauteous sun-rise, the rays of which shed a brilliant light, as well upon the cottages of Siberia as upon the imperial palaces."

Dr. THORPE, of Dublin, mentioned a noted criminal lately executed in Ireland, who had never seen a Bible till he saw it in his cell a little before his execution; then laying his hand upon it he said, "Had I possessed a copy of this book ten years ago, I had not been here:" and he spent the last minutes of his life in advising the spectators around him to procure a Bible, and to search diligently its contents. He stated that a desire to read the Scriptures was much on the increase among the Roman Catholics of Ireland, yet there were thousands of them who had not seen a Bible.

JOHN THORNTON, Esq. (the Treasurer) stated the amount of subscriptions and donations this year to be 62,286*l.*; which is only 646*l.* less than the last, notwithstanding all the pressure of the times. Mr. T. stated the high gratification he felt in transacting the business and promoting the interests of the Society.

The Right Reverend the Bishop of NORWICH expressed the heartfelt satisfaction which he experienced in meeting so many excellent men of all religious persuasions, who, laying aside every

minor consideration, have the wisdom to perceive, and the piety to feel, that unity of heart is far more important than uniformity of sentiment. He moved thanks to the Secretaries, regretting much the indisposition of one of them, the Rev. Mr. Owen, who was unable to attend. This was seconded by Rev. Mr. BURN; and Dr. STEINKOPFF returned thanks in the name of all the three, as Mr. HUGHES, though present, was disabled from speaking by a cold which affected his voice.

Rev. Mr. PATERSON, from Russia, stated, that fifteen millions of Bibles were wanted for the Russian empire. Formerly 2000 annually were thought enough: now 200,000 were not half enough. The great and good ALEXANDER, besides the 10,000 roubles which he annually subscribes, has given a palace and gardens for the use of the Society, and now promises to furnish both.

Rev. D. WILSON, of St. John's Chapel, who officiated for the Rev. Mr. Owen, absent through illness, said, "While we deplore the affecting illness of him whom I represent this day, the other Secretaries may report to him, that excepting his presence, nothing has been wanting to the meeting. We have had more than ever of the divine presence and blessing; and have come to this altar and sworn afresh allegiance to the Bible, and to the God of the Bible."

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The twenty-third General Meeting of this Institution was held in London on the 14th, 15th, and 16th days of May, 1817.

Surrey Chapel. The first public service on this occasion commenced as usual at Surrey Chapel, which was crowded at an early hour, and never was greater eagerness shown to obtain seats. Indeed, the pressure was at times alarming, although every method that could be devised to prevent danger was employed, and several police officers were in attendance. We believe, however, that no serious accident occurred.

The Rev. Rowland Hill began to read the prayers of the Established Church at ten o'clock, the Chapel being then completely filled. The prayer before sermon was then offered up by the Rev. Dr. Kollock, of Savannah, in Georgia. The sermon, by the Rev. Dr. Chalmers of Glasgow, from 1 Cor. xiv. 22—25, succeeded.

Church-street, Blackfriars Road. There being reason to expect that Surrey Chapel would be insufficient for the accommodation of those who might wish to attend on this occasion, the Rev. Mr. Upton was requested to allow the Society the use of his chapel, which was readily granted. When Surrey Chapel was filled, bills were distributed at the doors, announcing that the Rev. Alexander Fletcher would preach at Church-street, forthwith; which he did, from Luke ii. 32. 'A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.'

Tabernacle. This spacious house of worship was also filled long before the time announced for the commencement of worship.

The Rev. Mr. Blackburn, of Finchinfield, prayed before the sermon; and the Rev. Mr. Pyne, of Duxford, after it.

The Rev. Thomas Jones, of Syrior, near Abergele, in Denbighshire, preached an excellent discourse on Isa. lii. 15. 'So shall he sprinkle many nations.'

A great number of persons being unable to get admission, the Rev. C. Maslin, of Hertford, was requested to preach to them in the Tabernacle yard, which he readily did, from Isa. xlv. 23. 'Sing, O! heavens, for the Lord hath done it; shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, &c. for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel.'

Thursday Evening. *Tottenham Court Chapel* was filled earlier than usual, and the service began at a quarter past five o'clock. The prayers of the church were read by the Rev. Mr. Geary; after which the Rev. Joseph Turnbull, of Ottery St. Mary, Devonshire, prayed in the pulpit.

The Rev. William Harris, of Cambridge, preached on Acts iv. 20. 'We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.'

Blackfriars Church. The use of this edifice, venerable by the labours of that excellent minister of Christ, the Rev. W. Romaine, was readily granted to the Society by the Rev. Isaac Saunders, A. M. the present rector, who read the prayers of the Church of England. An excellent and acceptable sermon was then delivered by the Rev. Henry Cambell, A. M. perpetual curate of Bicton, Salop, and minister of the Episcopal Chapel at Nailsworth in Gloucestershire, &c. &c. on Acts xvi. 9.

Sacramental services. The public assemblings of the Society were closed by the administration of the Lord's Supper to the members and friends of the Institution, who are stated communicants with some Christian church, without regarding the denomination under which they rank.

The collections at the several places of worship amounted to 1348*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* [nearly *six thousand dollars.*]

It is difficult to make an accurate comparison between the services of the present year and of those which are past: nor is it necessary. It is enough to say that they were highly satisfactory; that the missionary spirit which aims at nothing less than the evangelization of the whole world, and its subjection to the King of kings, appears to be increasing more and more; and should it please God to enable this Society, and others of a similar kind, to continue their exertions for twenty years more with the same blessing he has already granted, a very great change will probably take place on the face of the moral world. And for this purpose 'Come forward, Christians!—come forward "to the help of the Lord against the mighty," and combine your noblest energies

in the promotion of this great cause ! ' Let it become the topic of discussion,—the subject of discourse ; let it be canvassed and examined ; let it freely circulate. It will gain friends wherever it goes ; and sanctify every church, every house, every bosom in which it has a friend. The more attention it excites, the fairer scope it has for action. Give it ample space ; let it unfold its beauties,—let it prefer its claims. Its claims are founded on principles which every lover of the Saviour must revere. It is a cause stamped with the seal of heaven, dyed in the blood of Christ, and impressed with the characters of eternity ! The command of Jesus gave it birth—the providence of God has watched its growth—the agonies of the cross ensure its success—and the happiness of countless millions through eternal ages is the end it has in view. Great Britain seems disposed at this moment to give it the consideration it deserves. The churches have opened their arms to receive it ; they cherish it with maternal care ! Yes ; now is kindling a flame which shall destroy the fiend of selfishness and bigotry, that still lurks in the church to paralyze its exertions, and to disunite its members : and then shall it spread like the conflagration of a forest, till it has reduced to ashes every idol, every altar, and every temple of the heathen world !'

Proceedings of the Missionary Society at their Annual Meeting held in Spa-Fields Chapel, on Thursday, May 15, 1817.

The eagerness of the religious public to witness the proceedings of the Society at their annual meeting, has been observed for several years past greatly to increase ; so that scarcely any place of worship is found sufficient for the purpose : this appears to be an indication of the increasing interest which the friends of the institution feel in its important affairs.

The meeting commenced with prayer, by the Rev. Mr. Kent, of Gravesend. W. A. Hankey, Esq. Treasurer, was called to the chair, and opened the business of the day by a suitable address. The plan of the Society was then read by the Rev. Mr. Platt, and the Report of the Directors by the Secretary, but much abridged. The state of the Society's funds was next reported by the Treasurer, when it appeared that the receipts of the past year amounted to 21,865*l.* 4*s.* 0½*d.**

DR. BOGUE moved, that the Report of the Directors be received, approved, and printed. In recommending this motion, he expressed himself to the following effect :

Of all the companies met together upon the face of the earth, I know not that there is one assembled upon a more important occasion than the present. We represent a multitude of Christians and congregations united to spread the Gospel of Christ over the face of the whole earth. And with what dispositions should we engage in this service ? Ought there not to be a spirit of prayer, of love, of zeal, of devotion ? Under the influence of this spirit, every speaker should address you, and every hearer listen to what he

* Upwards of ninety-seven thousand dollars.

says ; and our united prayer should be, that the Sacred Spirit may descend and anoint our souls with those affections which become us in our present situation ; that we may feel as we ought, and form plans for advancing the kingdom of Christ in the most extensive degree.

When we survey the existence of this Society from its birth to its present maturity, I think we may do it with pleasure and delight. The charms of novelty are gone ; but there is something that should please us far more than novelty—that is *success*. The Society has not laboured in vain.

The formation of this Society, by the union of Christians of various denominations, gives an importance to the religious world that it did not possess for centuries before ; and much has been done in a variety of ways in consequence of this impulse. Nay, where can we look since the apostolic age for more remarkable events ? The time of the reformation we venerate, but its effects did not extend so widely. In consequence of this Society, similar ones were formed. Other denominations, who have thought it most advisable to act by themselves, have formed societies, and furnished us with allies in the great warfare against sin, and against Satan.—This is not all. That spirit of benevolence which gave birth to this Society, has extended itself to Bible Societies, Tract Societies, and various other means of diffusing Divine truth : to none perhaps more extensively than the schools for instructing the rising generation in the principles of religion.

I will put it, (but it is needless, I was going to say,) I will put it to the ministers here present. Has your engagement with this Society done you harm or good ? What injury has the Missionary Society done any minister engaged in it ? Has it made you feel less the importance of your office as ministers ? Has it not given an additional spring to the soul ? I may put it to my respected friends here present : has the Missionary Society hurt any private Christian ? Has it made you less devout, less benevolent, less attentive to the duties of life ? I venture to say it has been a universal benefit.

Let us consider too that there has been a progress of the missionary spirit. It was said at first, that it is only a short pang of zeal for the heathen ; it would soon die away. I said it would not. To convert the heathen is the duty of Christians ; and the more that duty is explained, the better it is understood, the more powerfully it is felt, the more will the missionary spirit increase, because the missionary spirit arises out of that great commandment of the law, ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.’ And in the Gospel the great principle of love to Christ constrains us to live to him who died for us and rose again. Herein consists the great strength of the Missionary Society—the spirit of love to souls. I rejoice that this spirit has continued, has increased, has spread itself far and wide ; that I believe now in England there is hardly a congregation where vital religion flourishes, which does not exert itself in the missionary cause. We meet this day in the pleasing

hope that this spirit will continue. Continue ? Yes ! I doubt not that it will grow stronger and stronger, till the earth be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. The Society during its progress has had its conflicts. It has been opposed for want of due consideration. For two or three years it was imagined that missionaries were almost needless ; a book was to supply their place : but it is the great excellence of good principles, they need only to be exhibited to hold the rank that belongs to them ; and I believe it is now admitted, that the Missionary Society holds the first place among the means of advancing the cause of Christ in the world ; and that all others are auxiliaries to this. Without this none of them will succeed. There is a growing disposition through the country to acknowledge its excellence and infinite importance. We have been greatly delighted to find, in hearing the Report, that an addition of seventeen labourers has been made to the missionaries since our last meeting. If the Society goes on in this way, you see there will soon be occasion for larger funds, and I have no doubt that they will be furnished. In the distressed state of the country, we do not wonder that there is some diminution ; but in that prosperity for which we hope, the missionary cause will partake, and have its full share in the increase of its funds. It is exceedingly pleasing to find that this Society has been able to plant the standard of the Redeemer so widely in the world. Some have imagined, that if the missionaries had been all sent to one place for a season, and then to others, it would have been more beneficial : but I should not hesitate to enter the lists with any man to prove that the plan of our Society is more apostolical, and more useful. Multitudes of stations have been occupied by our missionaries, both in the civilized and barbarous world ; and the gradual increase in each is proportioned to the extent of the field. This is, I am persuaded, the most effectual method of advancing the Gospel of Christ. We have the first field in the world in our mission in China. There is a world of souls in that country, and God has promised Christ the ends of the earth for his possession. Every one will view with approbation the missionary stations in other parts of the world, and the evidence we have of the power of the Holy Spirit accompanying the preaching of the Gospel. We see the most brutish people upon earth become thoughtful about the salvation of their souls, feeling their need of a Saviour, and seeking everlasting blessedness. Contrary to their natural indolence, they take the sacred book into their hands, examine it with diligence, believe it, and live upon it. Could human power have produced such a change as this ? If Socrates had laboured at it for a thousand years, he would have laboured in vain. It has been effected by the Gospel of Christ, accompanied by the power of his Spirit. I am sure you have been delighted with what you heard in our Report concerning several stations in Africa. Do you think the Society has laboured in vain ? It is a most amazing thing to think of, and should engage our liveliest gratitude to God, that he has been pleased so to bless his word ; that he should manifest so remarka-

bly that the Gospel is the power of God unto the salvation of the savage as well as the civilized.

With respect to our missions in the most important stations in the world, we have reason to say, that the missionaries have laboured with great diligence. How pleasing it is that there should be a copy of the New Testament in a language that is understood by more than a fourth part of the human race! This is one of the greatest gifts that has been bestowed upon mankind for a long season past; and the labours of Mr. Morrison in this respect are worthy of the highest commendation. The labours of Mr. Milne are likewise exceedingly interesting: he has begun to translate the Old Testament as far as Deuteronomy; and I hold in my hand a Chinese Evangelical Magazine: there are several numbers of it; they refer to subjects of Divine truth of the highest importance. We have certainly reason to rejoice in the acquisition of that difficult language. It is pleasing likewise to find that considerable progress has been made to translate the Testament into the Canara and other languages. It is one of the maxims which I always inculcate on students, when they go first to a country where no missionary has been before, always to translate the Scriptures into the language of that country; and I hope they will consider it to be their province and their duty. I consider our missionaries are in the same situation with the prophet Ezekiel, when sent to prophesy to the dry bones. By their labours, and the reading of the Scriptures and Tracts, there is a shaking, and the bones coming together, bone to his bone: these are covered with sinews and flesh, but the living spirit is wanted, and our missionaries are crying, 'Breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' And I expect to find ere long that their prayers are heard. But while they pray for that spirit, shall they have no auxiliaries? Surely it is our indispensable duty to wrestle with God, that all difficulties may be surmounted, and multitudes be converted to Christ.

With respect to other missionary societies we feel no jealousy: we count them not as rivals, but as our allies in the army of Christ, seeking with one accord the destruction of the kingdom of Satan. We cordially wish them success. One thing I will say of them, I wish we may excel them in fighting. I am desirous that this Society may excel them in the wisdom of its plans, in the vigour of its exertions, in the piety, zeal, and devotedness, of its missionaries, and in the abundance of their labours; so that when the Ecclesiastical History of the nineteenth century shall be recorded, it may be said that no body of men contributed so much to the advancement of the kingdom of Christ as the Missionary Society formed in London in the year 1795. I repeat, Mr. Chairman, my anxious wish that the Report may be received, &c.

MR. STEVEN. After the rich supply thrown into your treasury by my respected friend, will you accept of two mites out of my penury? I may appeal to every person here who possesses Christian feeling, whether he has not been highly gratified while our friend was speaking of the proceedings of the Society last year.

We have been favoured to-day with a sort of ubiquity : we have followed our friend rather rapidly ; we have been visiting the four quarters of the globe. When the Jewish lawgiver was about to die, he ascended the mountain, looked back, and saw the Israelitish standard flying upon the strong holds of Amalek, and the plains of Moab. He looked across the river and saw the high walls of Jericho, but he saw them destined to be levelled with the ground ; and believed it as truly as if he had been in the camp of Israel when the rams' horns were blown. We are called, Sir, to-day to ascend a mount ; but one more hallowed than that on which Moses stood : we are called to ascend Mount Calvary. We never can pursue the affairs of missions with advantage, unless we set out from that point ; and let me recommend, not only on such a day as this, but that every morning we commence the various duties of the day, having first caught a holy flame from him who died upon the cross. We look back from that holy eminence, and see what has been achieved by this and other societies. We see the standard of the cross waving in the wilds of Africa, the plains of Hindoostan, &c. &c. We look forward. How small a portion of the globe which we inhabit has yet been visited by the sun of righteousness ! But as Moses believed, so do we : that as surely as our great Intercessor is now before the throne, so surely shall the nations in due time fall under his dominion. We look forward, Sir, and we see the banner of the cross waving upon the mosque of St. Sophia, and elevated upon the temple of Juggernaut. We see that masterpiece of Satan's policy, the Indian CASTE, like the walls of Jericho, falling to the ground. To change the metaphor, the operations of this Society, like the living waters that flowed from under the threshold of the sanctuary, though but ankle deep, have yet refreshed many nations. We hear from the wilds of Africa the Bushmen, the Hottentots, &c. uniting in one grand chorus, glory, glory, glory, be to God for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We go on to Asia, and hear the Hindoos say, ' Hallowed be the day when missionary-man first visited my native shore. My guilty conscience found no relief till I was directed by your missionary to the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness. In that fountain I have washed, I have obtained peace, I have obtained purity.' Although much has been done, let us recollect that there is yet much land to be possessed. The children of Israel had only two tribes and a half that got *quiet* possession of the promised land. All the rest had to fight their way for it. We are not to suppose that the business is done : it is but begun. I will not, Sir, trespass any longer, but encourage my friends to go forward. We want two things particularly ; we want more funds, we want more prayer. Is there any one here that has neglected to pray for the Missionary Society this last year ? O let us never, never rise from our bended knees, without pleading that God would remember his promise to his Son, and that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ.

The Rev. Mr. Bennet of Rotherham moved thanks to the Treasurer, the Chairman of the meeting.

[After some flattering observations relating to the gentleman who formerly filled that respectable office, and to the individual who now occupied it, he thus proceeds:]

Last year the income of the Society was 22,640*l.* and this year but 21,486*l.* about 1100*l.* deficiency compared with the last year. Some reasons might be assigned, especially as it regards the times; but I must contend that the motives for increase have been so mighty, that we had a right to have expected it in spite of all times. Remember, my friends, what is your design: not merely, like the Bible, Tract, or School Societies, to furnish the preparatory means, but that which is to give to the others their effect. You have heard much of the Chinese empire, and of the wall that has surrounded that empire; it seems a sort of brazen wall to keep out the truth. What would you say if God had commissioned us to destroy that wall? If you had provided gunpowder and laid the train, what would you not do to provide the spark? Now God *has* commissioned us to destroy that wall. Bibles and Tracts are as it were the gunpowder; teaching men to read is laying the train; and it is the plan of the Gospel of grace to send the minister of the word to strike the spark, that the explosion of the powder may produce all the desired effect. When therefore you reflect upon the importance of this Society, in providing and sending forth the messengers of mercy, let me ask, whether we have not been quite long enough in providing these extraordinary means? For, remember where we now stand; at what era of time; we seem like men awoke from a long slumber; hardly aware of the time.

Since our Lord ascended men seem to have forgotten their business, till at length a voice from the grave, a voice from the cross, a voice from the throne of Jesus, has burst on our ears—'Is this thy kindness to thy friend?' Did I bleed for men, and leave it for you but to tell them of it, and was this too much? Under this reproach we begin to ask what o'clock it is: what o'clock? Almost midnight, 1817; this is the time of the day, and we cannot calculate upon a much longer continuance before the final consummation of all things. How late then have we been in rising up to action! We have, therefore, as a Society to make up for lost time. Reflect upon what our fathers have been neglecting; we have to do their work: and many of us as to contribution, have to give what they kept back. Some inherit property from their ancestors; let every man give back what they ought to have contributed to this important work. Let me ask then for your assistance. What would you not contribute towards purchasing a Saviour, if he were to be bought? You shudder at the proposal. We are not about to act the part of Judas, and set a price upon him. O! no. The blood of Jesus is beyond all price! Then let me ask what you ought not to do to give this Saviour to the heathen? What would you not contribute to accomplish such a work as this? And whenever you send the Gospel to the heathen, it is to them as if the blessing were given then the first time; as if at that moment it came warm from

the Father's bosom, as if the blood of Christ were just poured warm upon the earth : then they feel the value and sweetness of those divine words, ' God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'

Consider the encouragement you have in another point of view. —Wherever your missionaries go they change the face of the world. This is acknowledged by worldly men. A worthy minister in Lincolnshire has handed me the following note.* This is information that I think should go abroad among the men of the world. I will not detain the meeting longer than by expressing my ardent wish, that such a Society may never want such a Treasurer; and that such a Treasurer may never want an overflowing treasury.

REV. DR. KOLLOCK, OF SAVANNAH IN GEORGIA. I am honoured in being appointed to second this motion. I have marked the progress of this Society with gratitude to God; a Society that unites the sympathies of believers in every land. It must hold a distinguished place among those wonderful institutions that have arisen in the bosom of Christendom within the last 50 years. But its praises have been expressed by more eloquent lips—and they have been expressed by the tears of rapture with which the converted in heathen lands have looked to the cross of Immanuel, and in the triumphs of those from among them who have ascended to the right hand of God. Yes, it is a Society which needs not, which desires not, the praises of men; its record is in heaven, it has that honour which cometh from God only.

I only say, that in my country the American Missionary Society generally looks to this as its parent and great example. From this altar they have taken their fire, because they knew it was fire which came down from heaven; or rather they had been directed before then to look to the Redeemer, their Lord and ours, that they from the same source might receive the same heavenly fire.—Let me on this occasion observe, that when strangers come among you, it is by such institutions as these that they are the most struck—the most deeply affected. We admire your progress in the Arts and Sciences; but our hearts most overflow when we witness, as we have done during this past week, so many societies in which British piety and benevolence are combined. If your poets and historians render you illustrious for your exploits in the field, yet you are still more exalted by the unbloody conquests that you have gained, and are gaining over sin and Satan; by those conquests that are achieved through the energy of prayer, through your benevolent exertions, and the accompanying influences of the Spirit of God.

[For want of room, we are under the necessity of deferring till our next Number the speech of the Rev. Dr. Mason, delivered at this meeting.]

* This letter stated, that when an English ship goes into a port, even in the most savage country, it is safe if missionaries are there.

OBITUARY NOTICE OF MISS MARTHA NEAL.

The subject of this memoir was the eldest daughter of John Neal, Esq. Cashier of the Branch Bank in Washington, Pennsylvania. She departed this life in February last, at the age of 16. The following narrative is given in a letter from her mother to a female friend in this city, dated Washington, Pa. March 17th, 1817, and communicated for publication in the *Christian Herald*.

In compliance with the request of my departed child, I write to you, my dear friend, to give you some account of her last sickness and death. My lovely daughter had just completed her education, which had for some time past almost exclusively occupied her attention. A fine snow falling, she was prevailed upon by a gay friend of ours, who lives some miles from Washington, to make up a party of pleasure for sleighing, and pay her a visit. After their arrival, they were entreated (it being Saturday) to stay until Monday. Martha, knowing there would be no preaching in Washington on the Sabbath, and feeling much fatigued, consented to remain. After sending the servant home with the sleigh she felt much indisposed, and retired to bed before tea. From her chamber she heard the conversation in the tea room, and found the merriment and frivolity of a gay party uncongenial to her present feelings. She wished herself at home, where, she said, "prayer was wont to be made." Sabbath arrived:—no ordinances—no reading of the precious word—no prayer.—She began to think of the privileges which she had enjoyed, but had never properly estimated, though she had always paid them external homage; and O, how valuable did they now appear! Her conscience was deeply convinced—her sins were brought by the Spirit into full view—her soul was filled with great distress; to use her own words, "she felt herself in hell." Most sincerely did she regret the loss of that precious time which she had wasted in unprofitable pursuits, particularly in novel reading: for this did she mourn with the contrition of a true penitent. She said, "Oh! if it is the Lord's will to permit me to return home, I will never more leave it, but apply myself to the duties of religion." In this state she continued until the violence of the fever brought on a delirium. Even then, the serious impressions of religious truth which had for some time past engrossed her thoughts, appeared to abide; and though the fanciful ideas with which the perusal of novels had filled her imagination still returned to haunt her mind, they could not chase from it the powerful convictions which the realities of religion had produced: for while she talked of the paintings that adorned her room, as exhibiting scenes in the "*Mysteries of Udolpho*," she would lament and mourn over her sins. On Thursday I succeeded in getting her home in a sleigh, by taking out the seats, and fixing a bed in it. Her physician attended her on horseback. After her removal she appeared to be better. The hopes of her anxious parents were revived; and as a prospect of returning health dawned upon her the impressions on her soul became deeper, and more and more characteristic of a work of grace.

She would sometimes clasp me in her arms and beg me to pray for her—and then kiss me for it. Mr. Brown, our worthy Pastor, asked her if she did not wish to return again to the world, and enjoy its pleasures? Her answer was, that she desired to be resigned to the will of God; that every dispensation of his providence might be sanctified to her; but if Jesus would receive her, she would rather depart; she would give up *all* for a blessed immortality; and should she be restored to health, her only wish was to live to the glory of God.

She desired to become a member of the "Female Praying Society;" and she requested an interest in the prayers of all that called upon the name of Jesus. In this state of mind she continued three weeks; when it was thought advisable to give a slight mercurial affection to the system, which it was hoped would entirely relieve her. She then devoted herself entirely to religious inquiry; she became more than ever engaged *for herself* at the throne of grace; and though racked with pain of body, and her mouth extremely sore, she employed her whole time in reading, singing, and praying. Thus she continued growing ripe for glory; when, three days before her death, it pleased the Lord to dispel her doubts and fears, and give her a sweet assurance of pardoning mercy through a crucified Redeemer. Her emancipated soul was absorpt in Divine love—her tongue was set at liberty to utter the praises of Him who "by the blood of the Covenant delivered her out of the pit wherein is no water." She exclaimed in raptures of holy joy, "dear mother, I have found Jesus! he is precious to my soul! have you ever seen Jesus? He is all in all, he will save poor vile Martha. I thought I loved you, dear mother, but I find I love *my Saviour* better.—Oh! how precious he is to my soul! the one altogether lovely. Now, my dear mother, you said *you would give me up* if he would manifest himself to me as he does not to the world: weep not then for me; but pray for resignation." She then threw her affectionate arms around me, and prayed a considerable time. After a few moments she sang the hymn

"Happy soul, thy warfare's ended;"

and with a countenance beaming with holy joy exclaimed, "Come Lord Jesus and receive vile Martha to thyself before the light of another morning." With these words she became insensible; her body was permitted to suffer two days longer: then, without a struggle, she departed to join the song of the ransomed, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

A short time before her death, she begged me to tell her young friends that "she trusted she had discovered the true use of time: the hymn says, "Life is the time to serve the Lord;" but, mother, tell them, *Oh! tell them*, that *health is the time*. On time depends eternity. Though my life is still preserved, yet the distress of my body is so great, that I cannot speak forth the beauties of my Saviour. If my mouth ever gets well, I will tell them myself."

She was one of the young ladies who had exerted themselves in establishing and teaching a Sabbath School in this place. She now began to examine her motives, and said, "I never performed that duty with right views; I never sufficiently considered the value of the immortal soul. If the Lord restores me, I will in his strength endeavour to be more useful to the children; I will select suitable hymns for them, that when they arrive at a sick bed, and a dying hour, they may find the comfort of religious instruction. Let Mary take some tracts and give them to the dear little immortals, with my love. And, mother, let her take my place in the school. Oh, what a responsible and useful employment! May the Lord give her grace to be faithful, that she may receive the happy plaudit, *well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of thy Lord.*"

Oh! my friend, these are the words of my dear child. You who are a parent will feel how dear they are to me.

At her request I write to you, and it would no more than comport with the desire which she expressed before her death, that young persons every where should hear and consider what the Lord has graciously done for her soul. Make then what use you please of this imperfect statement. May it be as bread cast upon the waters, which will be found after many days.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The following contributions to the funds of the American Bible Society have been acknowledged by the Treasurer since the account published in No. 16, (12th July:)

From the Bible Society of Virginia, 250 dols.; the Lexington Auxiliary B. S. (Virg.) 100 dols.; the Female B. S. of Carlisle, (Pa.) 123 dols.; the B. S. of Cumberland County, (Pa.) 120 dols.; the Westfield Aux. B. S. Essex County, (N. J.) 15 dols.; the Aux. B. S. of Steuben County, (N. Y.) 53 dols.; the Rahway Female B. S. (N. J.) 20 dols.; the Female B. S. of Kingston, Ulster County, (N. Y.) 30 dols.:—*Collections* by Rev. Neal H. Shaw, in the congregations at Chaptico, Tommy Coker, and All Faith Churches, in St. Mary's County, (Maryland,) 33 dols. 65 cents; by Dr. A. Proudfit, at Laurel-Hill and Little Red Stone (Pa.) 74 dols.:—*one hundred and fifty dollars* contributed by a few ladies belonging to the congregation of Christ's Church, New-York, to constitute their pastor, the Rev. Thomas Lyell, a *director for life*:—and contributions of *thirty dollars* each, to constitute the following clergymen *members for life*, viz. the Rev. Dr. Hezekiah Ripley, by the ladies of the congregational Society at Green Farms, Fairfield County, (Conn.); Rev. Noah Porter, by several ladies of Farmington, (Conn.); Rev. John Mason Duncan, by the Associate Presbyterian Church at Baltimore; Rev. Bennet Tyler, by the Female Cent Society of Southbury, (Conn.); Rev. Samuel Shepherd, by the Female Cent Society in Lenox, (Mass.); Rev. Richard S. Storrs, by the Females of the parish of Braintree, (Mass.); Rev. John Smith, by the ladies of the Presbyterian Church in Cooperstown, Otsego County, (N. Y.): also, *thirty dollars* from each of the following persons, as members for life, viz.—Rev. John Keep; Rev. Samuel Willard; Rev. Dr. Joseph Strong, of Norwich, (Conn.); Dr. John R. B. Rogers, of New-York; J. B. Lawrence, of Salem, (Mass.); and Robert Hartshorne, of New-Jersey.